



New Mexico Environment Department

Early Action Compacts

**A Protocol for Voluntary Plans to
Achieve and Maintain the 8-hour
Ozone Standard**



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Four Corners Ozone Task Force

- Formed in October
- 18-member Steering Committee representing:
 - Local government
 - Industry
 - Environmental Groups
 - Health Organizations
 - Concerned Citizens
 - Federal Interests
 - Air Quality Regulators
- Steering Committee recommended that we move forward with an Early Action Compact



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Early Action Compact (EAC)

- Eligible area:
 - Designated and monitoring Attainment of 1-hr standard
 - Approach or monitor exceedances of 8-hr standard
- Deadline: December 31, 2002



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Principles of EAC

- Early planning, implementation and emission reductions leading to expeditious attainment and maintenance of the 8-hr ozone standard
- Local control of the measures to be employed
 - with broad based public input
- State assists in technical analysis



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Principles of EAC (cont.)

- Deferral of non-attainment designation
- Can opt out of EAC at any point without penalty
 - With appropriate credit given for emission reduction measures already implemented
- No cost to the community to develop an EAC



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Stages of EAC

- Develop Compact – by Dec. 31, 2002
- Local Control Measures – by June 16, 2003
- Develop Plan – by March 31, 2004
 - State of the science emissions inventory and modeling
 - Locally selected enforceable control measures
 - Maintenance for growth provisions
 - Public involvement and education



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Stages of EAC (cont.)

- Finalize emission reduction plan – by Dec. 31, 2004
- 2005 to 2007
 - Implement measures by 2005
 - Maintain and update modeling and plan
- Monitor attainment by Dec. 31, 2007
 - 3 year average – 2005-2007



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Consequences of EAC

- If attain in 2007
 - EPA designates as attainment with no further requirements
 - Further planning/maintenance up to area
- If miss milestone, including attainment in 2007
 - Rejoin regular designation and implementation process in progress
 - Credit for control measures implemented
 - No special delays or exemptions



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Pros of EAC

- Returns control of air quality planning to local officials
- Appropriate and effective measures for each area
- No mandatory Federal or State measures
- Ability to opt out at any point
- Leverage for EPA funding



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Cons of EAC

- Short timeline to decide and develop plan
- Local control means local responsibility



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